

Dear Public Housing Authority (PHA) Executive Director, Section 8 Director/Manager, PHA staff, Realtors, Lenders, Appraisers, Real Estate Inspectors, Real Estate Title/Settlement Companies, Housing and Credit Counseling Agencies, Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE's), Nonprofit Housing Organizations, and Federal, State, City and County Agencies:

Homeownership represents the realization of the American Dream for many families. It is also good public policy because it is known to promote social and economic benefits for the homeowners and the communities in which they reside, and it is often a key component of families moving to self-sufficiency. The Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program is a tool with enormous potential to increase the number of new homeowners.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has joined with the NeighborWorks® America in sponsoring a Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program (HCVHP) training workshop to be held in HUD's Southeast/Caribbean Region on March 7-8, 2006 in Miami, Florida at the Courtyard Miami Downtown, 200 SE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida at (305) 374-3000.

This event will include representatives of PHAs that operate successful homeownership programs, realtors, lenders underwriting loans under the homeownership program, State Housing Finance Agencies, as well as housing and credit counseling agencies. Our purpose is to assist PHAs to either create a homeownership program, or expand an existing one. The two-day homeownership-training workshop will consist of:

Day 1 – Nuts and Bolts: Workshop Training to Create or Expand a Successful Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program (March 7).

Day 2 – Managing a Successful Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program/Best Practices: Managing strategies and panel discussions with PHAs in HUD's Rocky Mountains Region; State Housing Finance Agencies; lenders currently underwriting loans under the HCVHP; and housing and credit counseling agencies will also participate in the panel discussion (March 8).

Since these training workshops address a range of issues affecting the program, HUD and NeighborWorks® America are requesting your participation. You are encouraged to register on-line at

http://www.nw5.org/courses/course_classes.php?&course=1000&sid=3317

If you are unable to access registration on line, you are welcome to complete a registration form. If so, please contact Christina Rosenberg at (607) 273-8374 x26, crosenberg@nw.org, or by fax at (607) 273-0865 for a registration form. You are responsible for reserving your hotel room by contacting the hotel directly. HUD and NeighborWorks® America thank you for helping low-income and minority families achieve the American Dream of Homeownership.